

THE WILSON BULLETIN

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EDITORIAL

Dr. Cole's history of the Bird Banding movement in this country is especially appropriate at this time of expansion of the work. It was through his efforts and continued interest and sacrifice that the work was kept sufficiently before ornithologists so that the value of it as a method in bird study was finally recognized. The revival of the work in a new form, that which we are pushing now, is, of course, due to the work of S. Prentiss Baldwin, with his systematic trapping and banding. May the good work go on.

The Editor has always been interested in the parasitic habits of the Cowbird, and has kept a more or less accurate record of the number of eggs found in the nests of various species. Never has he found such a large percentage of parasitized nests as the present season. Two examples will serve to illustrate the situation. A nest of the Red-eyed Vireo was found with three eggs of the Cowbird and none of the vireo; the three were as much alike as could well be. A nest of Towhee contained two of the Towhee and six of the Cowbird. In point or resemblance the six were in three pairs. Parasite eggs are always removed.

We earnestly commend the making of "Bird Counts" which the U. S. Biological Survey is sponsoring and urging. It is only from data obtained from many such counts well scattered over the country, and made as accurately as possible, that we shall be able to follow changes that may be going on among the birds of the country. It is altogether likely that there have been and continue to be shifts of bird population of great significance to human interests due to shifts of human interests themselves. We may continue to speculate about these shifts, as we have in the past, but with the data in hand that these "Counts" are bringing to us, speculation will largely give place to known facts. Join the ranks and make at least one such "Count" this summer.